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COPY OF A LETTER

TO

MAJOR-GENERAL SIR EDWARD LUGARD,  
*Military Secretary,*

POINTING OUT THE NECESSITY TO HAVE

THE PATHOLOGY, THE ETIOLOGY,

AND

THE MEDICAL TREATMENT

OF

CHOLERA

SCIENTIFICALLY STUDIED BY THE

ARMY MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

BY

DAVID MACLOUGHLIN, M.D.,

*Member of the Legion of Honour.*

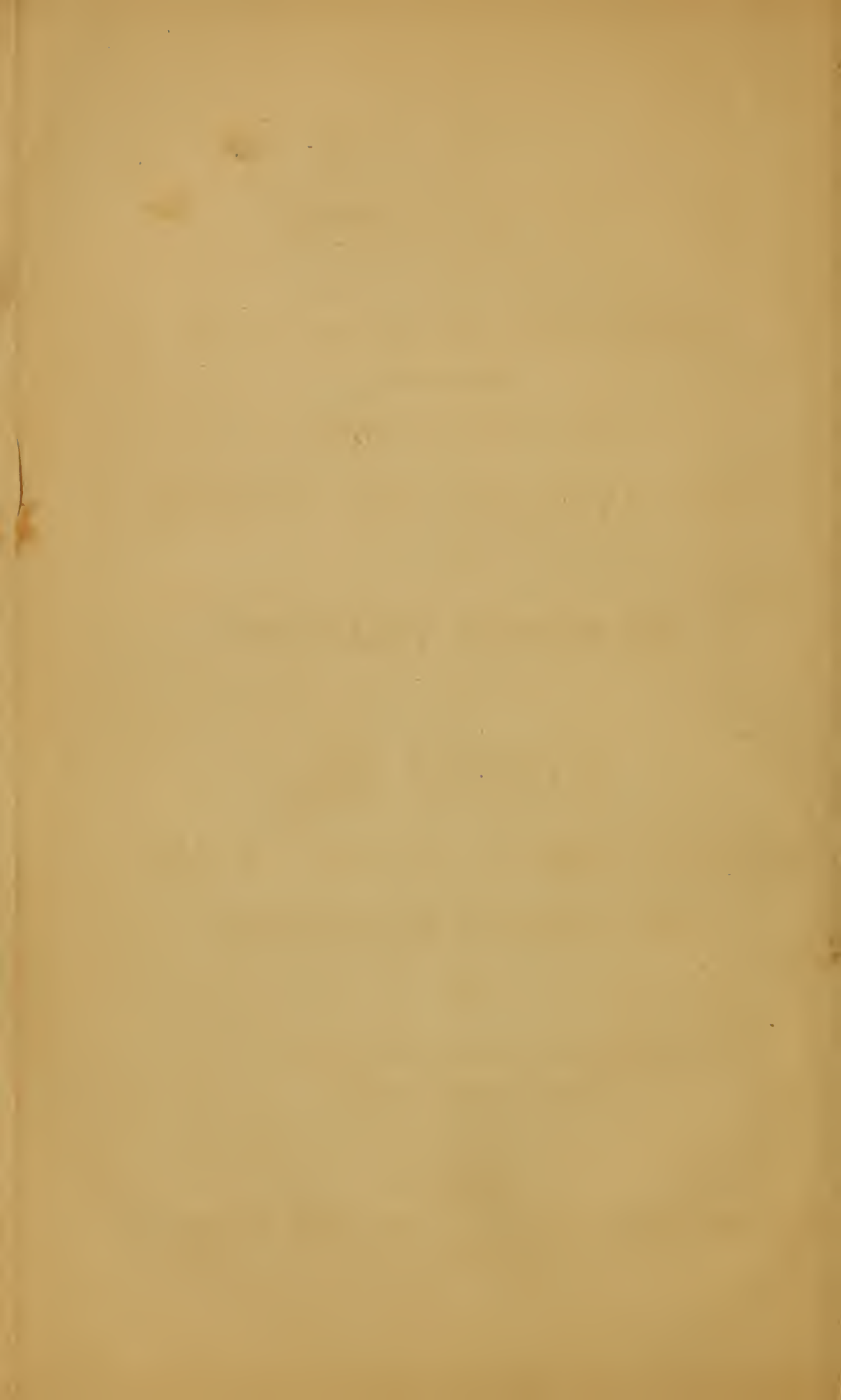
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LONDON :

PUBLISHED BY CHURCHILL & SONS, NEW BURLINGTON  
STREET.







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9

**EXTRACT FROM A SPEECH OF THE SECRETARY OF  
STATE FOR WAR.**

At a public dinner on the 18th of March, 1864, the Secretary of State stated, "that of late years the death rates in the army had declined to fifty per cent., and he asked the question—if the remaining fifty per cent. should be allowed to go without any attempt at amelioration?"

*Vice Admiral  
The*

*Lord Clarence Paget M.P.*

*with the author's compliments*

TO MAJOR-GENERAL SIR EDWARD LUGARD, K.C.B.,  
MILITARY SECRETARY.

SIR,

Since, by your letter of the 8th instant, you inform me that the Secretary of State for War has, again, refused to have the pathology, the etiology, and the medical treatment of cholera scientifically studied by the Army Medical Department; I will now perform the duty which I have imposed on myself: which is—to place before the public, and ultimately before the House of Commons, all I have done, for these last ten years, to induce the War Office to have the pathology, the etiology, and the medical treatment of cholera, scientifically studied, I repeat, by the Army Medical Department—but without success.

I feel satisfied that in the step I am about to take I do not study my interest—but I have a higher object in view than self; and whatever injury the hand of power may inflict on me, I shall have the tears of gratitude from the afflicted men to reward me.

In the field of battle a false move must be persisted

in, regardless of the loss of life: but I am not aware that any such necessity exists in the military hospitals—to persist in an error, regardless of the loss of life.

In 1817 cholera first attracted attention in India.

The India Government appointed Mr. James Jameson, in the Bengal Presidency, and Mr. William Scott, in the Madras Presidency, to study, and to report, on the pathology, the etiology, and the medical treatment of this disease.

Each of these gentlemen published, under the authority of the Indian Government, their report. But they both overlooked the first, the most essential stage of this disease, because generally there is no pain; and fixed their attention on the last stage of the disease, because there is always pain—when, too often, the patient is past all human aid; and then they prescribed a plan of medical treatment which assisted the disease to destroy life.\*

These errors, put forward by two medical officers

\* That the reader may not suppose that I have made use of too strong an expression I must state:—

That when diarrhœa and cholera are not epidemic, the usual dose of calomel is from two to five grains for a man of a good constitution.

But when diarrhœa and cholera are epidemic, one-half, one third, or one-fourth of the above doses will, too often, induce diarrhœa, followed by fatal cholera.

Therefore, when we find by the Army Medical Reports, at the Army Medical Departments, that the usual dose of calomel administered to an individual in the last stage of cholera is 20, 40, or 60 grains of calomel every hour, or every two hours, we cannot be surprised that the mortality of cholera cases in the army hospitals—is at the rate of 50, 60, 70, or 80 per cent.

who enjoyed the confidence of the Indian Government, were blindly accepted by the medical profession, in all countries, and the result has been that millions of men have been destroyed.

The Army Medical Department also adopted, without examination, the errors of the two above Indian medical officers ; and, unhappily, they have persisted in these errors to this day.

The consequence has been, that for these forty-seven years there has been a loss of about forty-seven thousand valuable lives : — lost by the disease, aided by the so-called medical treatment.

Therefore, it is to point out these errors, committed by Messrs. James Jameson and William Scott, as to the pathology and the medical treatment of this disease, and persisted in, I repeat, to this day by the Army Medical Department, that I have — in the interest of the army, in the interest of the public, and in the interest of humanity—done all I could for these last ten years with the War Office and with the Army Medical Department to have this disease scientifically studied : but in vain.

The War Office seems to have forgotten what took place in 1809, when, spell-bound, they accepted, and acted on, as trustworthy medical advice, that advice which made pest and slaughter-houses of the military hospitals ; and when warned of their error, they turned a deaf ear to all remonstrances.

But when the House of Commons called for explanations as to the great mortality in the army hospitals,

is it not on record that the official medical advisers at the War Office certified, to the War Office, that they were totally unacquainted with medical science ?

At this moment, sending a man labouring under cholera into the military hospitals, is sending him to the shambles.

Are the official medical advisers to the War Office, at this moment, as well acquainted with medical science as their predecessors in office were in 1809 ?

Although I have again and again placed before the War Office the proofs that I have some right to have, to give, and some right to be heard, when I give an opinion, relative to the pathology, the etiology, and the medical treatment of cholera ; yet, as the correspondence with the War Office, which I am now about to place before the public, and ultimately before the House of Commons, may fall into the hands of persons who have not time to read the whole correspondence, but who may be desirous to know what right I have to entertain and to express an opinion on the pathology, & c., & c., of cholera, I will, in as few words as possible, place before them an account of the opportunities I have had to see and make myself acquainted with the pathology, & c., of this disease.

For the last sixty years I have seen this disease, in different countries, under four different names: in Canada, in 1804, I saw it under the name of *misérère*: during the Peninsular I saw it under the name of *diarrhœa* ; in France, from 1821 to 1831, I saw it under the name of *Trousse Gallant*. Again in France,

from 1831 to 1848, I saw it under the name of *cholera*; and since my return to this country in 1848, up to this time, I have seen the disease under the name of cholera.

While in the army, and while as a medical practitioner in Paris, and especially during the epidemic of 1831-32, I lost no opportunity to make myself acquainted with the pathology, &c., of the disease—as is well known to my contemporaries in Paris.

On my return to this country in 1848, after an absence of thirty years, I found the country threatened with an outbreak of epidemic cholera.

I also found that no medical authority, or no private medical practitioner, had gone to the bedside, and there scientifically studied the rise and progress of the disease.

The medical profession in this country had, without examination, adopted the opinion of Messrs. James Jameson and William Scott,—that cholera is a disease of sudden invasion: attacking persons in perfect health, suddenly, with vomiting, severe purging, spasms, &c., and destroying life in a few hours; and that the medical treatment was large and repeated doses of calomel and small doses of opium.

It was useless to attempt to undeceive the medical profession on this—all had implicit confidence on what the two above Indian medical officers had written.

In 1849 cholera broke out as an epidemic in this country.

With the view to see, and again to study, this

disease scientifically, on an extensive scale, and also with the view to demonstrate to the medical profession that they were in error to adopt the errors of Messrs. James Jameson and William Scott, as to the pathology and medical treatment of this disease, I accepted an appointment as medical inspector to the General Board of Health. I had, at one time, charge of nine unions here in London; and I had about one hundred medical practitioners acting with me.

The attention of these gentleman was particularly directed to what were the first symptoms of a deviation from perfect health—which leads to an attack of cholera: this is, vomiting, severe purging, spasms, &c. What was the nature of this deviation; and note carefully the time which had elapsed from the first deviation from perfect health to the attack of vomiting, severe purging, &c.: this is, I repeat, to cholera.

I met these gentleman every morning, and I noted their reports.

The result of the inquiry was, that in these nine unions 3,902 cases of cholera occurred; that every individual had had a warning by a diarrhoea for a few hours, or for a few days, or for a few weeks, that he was about to be attacked with cholera—this is, I again repeat, vomiting, severe purging, spasms, &c.; and that no person in perfect health had been suddenly seized with vomiting, severe purging, spasms, &c., and life destroyed in a few hours in these nine unions.

The result of these researches, although made public by the report of the General Board of Health in 1850, yet had no influence on the medical profession. They still maintained that the above two India medical officers were correct, as to the pathology and as to the medical treatment of this disease. “ *These gentlemen had published their reports under the authority of the Indian Government, consequently they must be right ; and as I never had been in India, consequently I must be wrong to question these gentlemen’s knowledge of the pathology and medical treatment of this disease !!* ” Such was the language held by the profession.

In 1853, finding that the medical profession still persisted to consider the reports of Messrs. James Jameson and William Scott to be correct, as to the pathology and medical treatment of this disease, and consequently were inflicting great injury on the public, I determined to carry out an inquiry as to the pathology of this disease, so publicly, before the whole medical profession, here in London, that every one hereafter would be certain that Messrs. James Jameson and William Scott had committed grievous errors, as to the pathology, and, consequently, as to the medical treatment of this disease.

Therefore I solicited the favour from the Registrar-General, Major Graham, to request his sub-registrars, when they had to report a death from cholera, to inquire and to report if the person, being in perfect health, had been suddenly attacked with vomiting,

severe purging, spasms, &c.—in fact, with cholera, and life destroyed in a few hours.

Or if the person had had any deviation from perfect health, what was the nature of this deviation, and how long had it persisted, before the attack of vomiting, &c., of cholera.

I promised the Registrar-General that all cases of persons reported to him as cases of persons in perfect health having been suddenly attacked with vomiting, &c , &c., this is with cholera, and life destroyed in a few hours, that I would go and see this person's friends who had attended him from the moment he had been taken ill, and inquire into his health previous to the attack of vomiting, &c., &c., and report the result of my inquiries to him.

This agreement, between the Registrar-General, Major Graham, and myself, was made known to the medical profession by the medical journals.

Therefore every medical practitioner, in London, was aware that I would inquire into the history of every case, reported to the Registrar-General, as a case of sudden attack of cholera, without any premonitory symptoms.

During the outbreak of cholera in London in 1853, there were 878 deaths from cholera reported to the Registrar-General: 857 of these were reported to him to have had a diarrhoea for a few hours, or for a few days, or for a few weeks, warning them that they were about to be attacked with cholera.

*See the Registrar-General's weekly report of births, deaths, &c., for 1853.*

Twenty-one cases were reported to the Registrar-General as cases of sudden attacks of cholera without any premonitory symptoms.

I inquired into these twenty-one cases, and I found that seventeen, among the twenty-one cases, had had a premonitory diarrhœa for a longer or shorter time, but which had been overlooked by the medical attendants, and that the four other cases were not cases of cholera but errors in diagnoses.

*See Dr. Macloughlin's report to the Registrar-General on the outbreak of cholera in 1853.*

Therefore, with the valuable assistance of the Registrar-General, Major Graham, and the gentlemen of his department, I was enabled to carry out an inquiry, in the presence of the whole medical profession of London, as to the pathology, &c., &c., of cholera, which had never been attempted to be carried out, by the orders of any Government, in any country, or by any medical authority in any country, or by any individual in any country, and which settled the question—that cholera is not a disease of sudden invasion; but that on the contrary, every individual has a warning by a diarrhœa for a few hours, or for a few days, or for a few weeks that he is about to be attacked with cholera; and that if during the time which elapses from the first diarrhœal discharge to the first attack of vomiting, &c., &c., rational medical

treatment is had recourse to, the developed stage of the disease is arrested, and life is safe.

Therefore, these researches prove that Messrs. James Jameson and William Scott had overlooked the principal stage of this disease, which is the first, the most essential stage of this disease, because there is generally no pain; and they had fixed their attention, and the attention of the whole medical profession, on the last stage of this disease — when there is pain — and when, too often, the person is past all human aid, and then, I repeat, they prescribed a plan of medical treatment which assists the disease to destroy life.

Messrs. James Jameson and William Scott, and the whole medical profession in every country, were not aware, till 1853, that a painless diarrhœa may drain away almost the whole serum from the blood — that the heart may have ceased to contract — that the pulse may have ceased to beat — that the blood may have ceased to circulate, yet this person may be walking about for business, or for pleasure, or he may be at the festive board the life of his party — he may be past all human aid — and yet he has not one symptom which Messrs. James Jameson and William Scott would consider as cholera.

However, if this individual is asked how he is, in all probability he answers that he has nothing the matter with him, only that his voice is not so strong as usual. He possibly in a few minutes after he has stated that he was quite well, will be seized suddenly

with vomiting, &c., &c., and cease to breathe in a few hours.

It is such cases as these which led Messrs. James Jameson and William Scott, and all superficial observers, astray—and which to this day leads the Army Medical Department astray, and assists to cause such a mortality in the military hospitals.

Another important pathological fact was ascertained during the inquiry of 1849, and that of 1853 and 1854; that where cholera is about to break out as an epidemic, there diarrhœa is epidemic, and there the bowels of every individual in the locality are more or less inclined to be attacked with diarrhœa.

Thus one-half, or one-third, or one-quarter of the usual dose of a laxative medicine will now, too often, induce diarrhœa, followed also, too often, by hopeless cholera.

And thus, therefore, I repeat, Messrs. James Jameson and W. Scott were in error when they prescribed doses of calomel from twelve to twenty times the amount of a full dose, repeated every hour or every second hour to a patient labouring under cholera.

Consequently, I again repeat, if half, third, or quarter of the usual dose of calomel is administered to a person free from diarrhœa, in a locality where diarrhœa is epidemic, induces diarrhœa, followed too often by hopeless cholera, what can be expected when from twelve to twenty times the full dose is administered every hour or every second hour to an individual labouring under cholera? As a rule, nothing but death.

Therefore, in the army hospital, where this plan of so-called medical treatment is still persisted in, we find the rate of mortality to be 50, 60, 70, or 80 per cent. Whereas, in the pauper population of England and Scotland the rate of mortality from cholera is, according to the Registrar-General's report, 48 per cent.

The soldier is selected as being healthy; he is in the vigour of youth, well fed, well cared for.

The pauper class is composed of individuals of all ages, from the infant at the breast, to the individual of extreme old age. It is also composed of individuals of broken-down constitutions, badly clothed, badly fed, and badly cared for — yet the mortality is less in the pauper class in England and Scotland than amongst the soldiers in the prime of life.

The conclusion we must arrive at is, that there must be some error as to the medical treatment which the soldiers receive in the army hospitals.

Thus, it has been demonstrated above that Messrs. James Jameson and Scott were unacquainted with the pathology of cholera. It now has been demonstrated that they were unacquainted with the scientific plan of medical treatment of this disease:—that their plan of medical treatment, I again repeat, assists the disease to destroy life.

As soon as I had communicated, in September, 1853, the result of my researches, relative to the pathology of cholera, to the Imperial Academy of Medicine of France, one of their best pathologists, Dr. Melier, was

sent to London to see me, to examine as to the result of my researches, and to report.

When cholera broke out in England and Scotland in 1854, the Registrar-General was so kind as to carry out the same inquiry as in 1853, and with the same results as in 1853.

*See the Registrar-General's Weekly Report of Births and Deaths for 1854.*

The General Board of Health, at my request, in 1854, called on the medical practitioners in charge of hospitals, unions, &c., in England and Scotland, to carry out the same inquiry as had been carried out in 1853, and to report.

The medical reports from all the hospitals, unions, &c., in England and Scotland, forwarded to the General Board of Health, testify to the fact that, where correct information could be obtained as to the health of the person, previous to the attack of this person, with vomiting, severe purging, spasms, &c., with cholera, it was found that he had laboured under a diarrhœa for a longer or shorter time.

Therefore, from the inquiries of 1853, carried out publicly in London, and from the inquiry carried out in England and Scotland in 1854, it cannot be controverted that a diarrhœa invariably precedes for a longer or shorter time, and warns the individual that he is about to be attacked with cholera ; and that if—during the interval between the first liquid evacuation and the first symptom of vomiting manifest itself—scientific medical treatment is had resource to, the

diarrhoeal discharge may be cured, and then the developed stage of the disease is prevented, and life is safe.

As soon as it was known here, in 1854, that cholera had broken out in the army in the Crimea, aware that no medical officer of that army had scientifically studied the pathology and the medical treatment of this disease, and that they persisted to consider Messrs. James Jameson and William Scott as trustworthy medical authorities, I waited on the then Director-General of Army Hospitals, and I explained the errors of the above two India medical officers—that they assisted the disease to destroy life. I placed in his hand a copy, for each of the medical officers in the Crimea, of the first scientific inquiry, as to the pathology and medical treatment of cholera, carried out in any country.

The then Director-General of Army Hospitals is a naturalist, said to be well acquainted how to stuff birds and reptiles, and to empale butterflies, but unacquainted with medical science. He could not be made to understand that Messrs. James Jameson and William Scott had committed grievous errors.

According to him, these gentlemen had been employed by the India Government to draw up reports on cholera: therefore they were superior men, well acquainted with their profession, and who could not commit any errors in drawing up their reports.

As the army in the Crimea were in great want of medical officers, and as the Government sought for,

and accepted, the service of every tyro in the profession, I offered my services.

But the then Director-General of Army Hospitals informed me, that if I were sent to the Crimea I might do something which might entitle me to promotion. That he intended to keep all the promotions that might occur in the Crimea for the gentlemen who had served with him since he was Director-General, *“as he considered them as his children; consequently, he was bound to provide for them. And as I had not served since he was Director-General, I had no claim on him,”* and, consequently, he declined to accept of my services.

As the then Secretary of State for War, the late Lord Herbert, was forming a civil medical staff for the army in the Crimea, independent of the military medical staff, I offered him my services.

It appeared by a correspondence which the late Lord Herbert read in the House of Commons on the 10th July, 1860 — as a justification for refusing to restore my commission, of which I had been illegally deprived, and for refusing to accept my professional services when the army was in the greatest want of experienced medical officers.

It appears, I say, when I had offered my services to the then Secretary of State for War, that he wrote to the Director-General, inquiring if I were employed on the civil medical staff which he was then forming, if he had any objections to my being employed, irrespective of my former services.

The Director-General replied that as I had thirty

years before declined to accept full pay, when called on, if I were then employed he would then lose all authority over the medical departments.

The late Lord Herbert, I say, read this correspondence to the House on the 10th July 1860 ; but his eyesight was unfaithful to him. He stated that this correspondence was with the late Mr. Alexander, who had succeeded Sir Andrew Smith as Director-General, who was too honourable a man to have acted disingenuously, but who was then dead. I have seen this letter. It was written by Sir Andrew Smith, the Director-General.

*See the Debate in the House of Commons, 10th July, 1860.*

I mention these facts to show that at a moment the army were in the greatest want of medical officers, and at a moment that my services might have been of more than common benefit to the army. By an unworthy act, to benefit himself and his friends, my services were refused.\*

\* The question before the House of Commons on the 10th of July, 1860, was—whether I had been legally, or illegally, deprived of my commission on the 22nd of May, 1824.

The late Lord Herbert admitted, on the 10th of July, 1860, before the House of Commons, “ *that on the 22nd of May, 1824, I was an officer on half pay.*”

Consequently, not amenable to the martial law—and, consequently, I could not be guilty “ *of a gross breach of discipline and disobedience to the orders of the Field-Marshal the Commander-in-Chief, His Royal Highness the Duke of York.*”

Therefore, it was an illegal act to inflict on me—an officer on half pay—summarily, a military degradation, and urging false

The result of all this was, that nothing relative to cholera was done. The medical officers in the army in the Crimea were allowed to go on—overlooking the first, the most essential stage of this disease—and by their so-called medical treatment assisting the disease to destroy life.

And the consequence was, that the commander-in-chief and thousands of that army were hurried into untimely graves.

The commander-in-chief had, no doubt, the best

reasons to justify the act, which the Crown has not the right to inflict, summarily, on any of Her military servants on full pay, or half pay in time of peace.

Although the late Lord Herbert admitted before the House of Commons, on the 10th of July, 1860, that on the 22nd of May, 1824, I was an officer on half pay ; consequently, summarily depriving me of my commission, and urging false reasons to justify the act, was illegal.

Yet he called on the House to refuse me redress, *because his predecessors had refused me redress ! ! !*

And yet, further, he did not inform the House of Commons that, at that moment he was pressing the House to refuse me redress, he had in his hand the official report on my case from the Field-Marshal Commander-in-Chief, His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge—the highest authority in the realm upon questions of military discipline—stating, “ *that after due inquiry, His Royal Highness sees no reason why Dr. Macloughlin’s commission should not be restored.*”

But he brought forward Sir Andrew Smith’s letter against me, who had no authority to give an opinion on a military question, and who was prompted to write that letter by unworthy motives, injurious to the public interest.

I sincerely lament that I am forced to state the above facts relative to the late Lord Herbert, who is not here to defend himself ; but his speech of the 10th of July, 1860, in the House of Commons is official, and consequently I have a right to appeal to it.

medical advice his camp could command. He laboured under diarrhœa for about ten days. There was a consultation on him the day before his death. From the information I have had from the most influential medical officer at that consultation, the commander-in-chief at that moment was passed all human aid. Yet that consultation was not aware of his danger ; nor did they recognise the nature of his disease then nor the next day, and up to three p.m. they reported him not to be in danger. At four o'clock p.m. the developed stage came on, and he ceased to breath a few hours after.

Since the Commander-in-Chief had received such medical advice, what better advice could the unfortunate soldier receive ?

After the army returned to this country from the Crimea, I was invited to a meeting of the medical officers of that army, where a paper was to be read relative to cholera.

The meeting was presided over by the Director-General, Sir Andrew Smith, supported by Sir John Hall, the chief medical officer of the army in the Crimea, and by the inspectors and deputy inspectors-general of that army.

It appeared that none of these gentlemen had scientifically studied the pathology, &c., of cholera ; that every one still believed that Messrs. James Jameson and William Scot were correct as to the pathology and medical treatment of cholera.

As cholera had broken out in the army in India in

1861—aware, from trustworthy information, that the scientific study of cholera had never been carried out in India—that the medical profession there still followed the views of Messrs. James Jameson and William Scot. On the 28th of September, 1861, I called the attention of the Director-General of Army Hospitals to the necessity of having cholera scientifically studied in India.

*See a copy of my letter, Appendix, No. I.; and see No. II. in the Appendix, the answer to my letter of the 28th September. 1861, from the Director-General.*

As I had failed to induce the Director-General of Army Hospitals to have cholera scientifically studied in India, I brought the subject under the notice of the Secretary of State for War on the 26th of October, 1861.

*See a copy of that letter, dated the 26th of October, 1861—Appendix, No. III.*

In answer to that letter, I was informed by a letter from Major-General Crofton, dated 9th November, 1861—*See No. IV. in the Appendix*—“*that the Secretary of State for War considered, that the question of the scientific study of cholera, may be, properly, left in the hands of the medical authorities in India.*”

The consequence of leaving this important question in the hands of the medical authorities in India was, that about 3,000 valuable lives were hurried into premature graves by the disease, assisted by the so-called medical treatment.

The Government of India appointed, in 1861, a

Medical Commission to inquire into the outbreak of cholera. This Commission was composed of three gentlemen who had not studied medical science, and two who were medical practitioners.

The moment it was known here that such a Commission was appointed, I took the liberty to state to the War Office that it was impossible that that Commission could presume to give an opinion on the pathology of cholera, and that, therefore, the appointment of such a Commission, was an error.

In 1863, a copy of the report of this Commission fell into my hands, and to the credit of this Commission the first act they did was to state that they were not competent to examine as to the pathology &c., &c., of cholera.

And again, much to their credit, they state again and again, that although cholera is endemic in India, that cholera has never been scientifically studied there.

The War Office is aware that the army medical returns are filed at the army medical department—that they are open to the inspection of the medical practitioners. Having again seen and examined these reports, and satisfied myself that the army medical department are no better acquainted with the pathology &c , &c., of cholera now than they were in 1817, when this disease first attracted notice, and that their medical treatment assisted this disease to destroy life, I waited on the Director-General of army hospitals to place before him the result of my examination of the army medical reports in his office.

I found this gentleman as well acquainted with the pathology, &c., of cholera as I had found his predecessor in 1854.

Statements were put forward, which wanted the support of facts. Therefore, having failed to convince him of the errors under which he was labouring, I took my leave.

But two days after I addressed him the letter dated the 11th of May, 1862. — *See the Appendix, No. V.* — and I received for answer the letter dated the 13th of May, 1862. — *See Appendix, No. VI.*

On the 1st of May, 1862, I again took the liberty to urge on the War Office the necessity to have cholera scientifically studied by the Army Medical Department. — *See copy of my letter in the Appendix, No. VII.*

Cholera in the mean time broke out at the Mauritius. No notice was taken of my letter of May, 1862.

The then Secretary of State for the Colonies, the late Duke of Newcastle, sent me a copy of the official medical report of the outbreak of cholera in 1862; by which it is shown that the Army Medical Department were no better acquainted with the pathology, and the medical treatment, of this disease, than they were in 1807; and that, consequently, they destroyed their patients by their so-called medical treatment.

As fatal cases of cholera were reported to have occurred in London by the Registrar-General in July last, and dreading that if rain fell, followed by sunshine, the disease might become epidemic — in the

interest of the army—in the interest of the public—and in the interest of humanity—I determined to make another attempt to have cholera scientifically studied.

Therefore, as every one knows the great interest which the Field-Marshal, Commander-in-Chief, His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge, takes in the well-being of the army, I attended His Royal Highness's levee on the 6th of July, 1864, and I took the liberty to place in his hand the letter dated 6th of July, 1864.—*See Appendix, No. VIII.*

I received for answer the letter dated 9th of August, 1864, from Major-General Forster. — *See Appendix, No. IX.*

In that letter from Major-General Forster I was referred to the Secretary of State for War; consequently, on the 9th of August last I wrote to the War Office, forwarding a copy of the correspondence with the Horse Guards, relating to the necessity to have cholera scientifically studied by the Army Medical Department.

Not having received a satisfactory answer to that letter, I took the liberty to solicit an interview with the Secretary of State for War relative to this question. But the Secretary of State for War had left London for a prolonged absence. Sir Edward Lugard, however, informed me that if I could place on paper what I wished to make known to his lordship it would be forwarded to him.

I therefore addressed the War Office the letter of

the 26th August, 1864—see *Appendix No. 11*—and I received for answer the letter dated 21st September, 1864.—See *Appendix No. 12*.

The War Office were not aware when they wrote to me that letter of the 24th September, 1864, and informed me that no affliction of real and developed cholera existed in this country, or in the military stations in India and China.

The War Office, I say, were not aware that fatal cases of cholera were weekly reported in the Registrar-General's Weekly Report of Births, Deaths, &c., and they were not aware that I was, at that moment, slowly recovering from a severe attack of developed cholera, which on the 10th September had put my life in the greatest danger.

The War Office were also unaware that the 77th Regiment were more than decimated in India by cholera, and that the 20th Regiment were also decimated by cholera in China.

At a public dinner on the 18th March, 1864, the Secretary of State for War stated that of late years the death rates in the army had declined to fifty per cent., and he asked the question if the remaining fifty per cent. should be allowed to go without any attempt at amelioration.

Yet the War Office have refused to inquire into the pathology, &c., of a disease which destroys—aided by the so-called medical treatment—50, 60, 70, or 80 per cent.—or, in other words, which destroyed for these

last forty-seven years at the rate of one thousand men yearly !

Therefore, aware that the War Office were acting under erroneous information, I again took the liberty on the 28th September, 1864—*see Appendix No. 13*—to reiterate my request, that this disease should be scientifically studied by the army medical department.

Not having received a satisfactory answer to that letter, I addressed the letter of the 22nd of October last to Major-General Sir Edward Lugard. — *See Appendix, No. 14.*

In that letter I stated that if in fifteen days from the date of that letter I was not informed that a Commission, composed of the Royal College of Physicians of London, or a Commission composed of scientific medical practitioners, was not appointed, before which I was to be called to substantiate what I have stated relative to the want, at this moment, of knowledge of the pathology and medical treatment of cholera by the Army Medical Department, I would feel it a duty to the army, to the public, and to humanity, to place before the public, and ultimately before the House of Commons, the copy of the correspondence I have had with the War Office for the last ten years, to induce the War Office to have this disease scientifically studied by the Army Medical Department.

On the 8th instant I received an answer to that letter of the 22nd of October, 1864 — *See Appendix, No. 15*—refusing to have cholera scientifically studied.

On the 12th instant I answered that letter by in-

forming the War Office, that now I felt at liberty to perform the duty I had imposed on myself—to place the correspondence which has passed between us before the public, and ultimately before the House of Commons.

And leave it to the House of Commons to decide— if the soldier, labouring under cholera, shall receive the best aid that medical science can give to assist to save his life.

Or if he shall receive the best aid to assist the disease to destroy his life? And I now perform this duty.—*See Appendix, No. XVI.*

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

DAVID MACLOUGHLIN, M.D.,

*Member of the Legion of Honour.*

LONDON, 30th November, 1864,

34, Bruton-street, Berkeley-square, W.



# APPENDIX.

No. I.

*Copy of a letter to the Director-General of Army Hospitals,*  
DR. GIBSON.

SIR,—My attention has been called to a statement in one of the periodicals that Cholera is now raging in India, and that the army has its share of the epidemic: therefore permit me to call your attention to the following facts:—

In 1849 and 1853, researches were undertaken here in London, and carried out in the presence of the whole medical profession; from which it resulted that in every case the patient had a warning by a diarrhœa, for a few hours, or for a few days, or for a few weeks, that he was about to be attacked with cholera; and that if this diarrhœal stage was promptly arrested, the developed stage of the disease was prevented, and life was safe.

And that when cholera was epidemic in a locality, there it was dangerous to administer one-half, or one-third, or one-quarter of the usual dose of a laxative medicine—lest diarrhœa be induced, followed, too often, by hopeless cholera.

The correctness of these researches were confirmed subsequently in 1854 by the researches of all the medical practitioners in England and Scotland in charge of Hospitals, Unions, &c., and also by the researches of pathologists in America, and on the continent of Europe.

The result of these researches were published in 1854, and a copy was sent to each of the medical officers in the Crimea, through the army medical department here.

On the return of the army from the Crimea, the medical officers of that army formed a medical society here for themselves, under the presidency of the head of the medical department, for the laudable purpose of giving to each member an opportunity to bring forward any observations he had made at the bedside—as to the rise, progress, and medical treatment of diseases.

At one of the meetings of this society, a paper was read on cholera by a senior medical officer attached to the army in the Crimea. It was with sincere regret that it was seen that in that large assembly of the Crimean army medical officers, presided over by the Director-General of army hospitals, Sir Andrew Smith, supported by the head of the medical department to the Crimean army, Sir John Hall, and by the chief medical officers of that army, that not one of these gentlemen were able to appreciate the importance of the researches carried out here as to the pathology, &c., of the disease in 1849-53.

They all appeared to have been carried back to 1817, and they all maintained that the disease was unknown before 1817—that it was a disease *sui generis*, attacking persons in perfect health suddenly, by vomiting, &c., and destroying life in a few hours, and that calomel is the sheet anchor in this disease.

With such opinions on the pathology and the medical treatment of this disease, it was easy to account for the great mortality, from cholera, in the Crimean army.

Therefore as cholera is now raging in India and in the army there, permit me—in the interest of the army—of the public—and of medical science—to ask you to call on the medical officers in India to institute inquiry at the bedside, and to endeavour to ascertain if the disease in India invariably

gives warning of its approach by a diarrhœa for a few hours, or for a few days, or for a few weeks ; and if when the disease is about to become epidemic, there is a tendency to diarrhœa among the inhabitants in the locality, and that one-half, one-third, or one-quarter of the usual dose of a laxative medicine may induce diarrhœa, too often followed by fatal cholera.

If the researches carried out here in London in 1849-53-54 under all the Hospitals, Unions, &c., in England and Scotland are confirmed by those carried out in India, you will at once see that the disease will be henceforth under the control of medical science.

I have the honour to be, &c.,

(Signed)

DAVID MACLOUGHLIN,

*Member of the Legion of Honour.*

London, 28th September, 1861.

34, Bruton Street, Berkeley Square, W.

## No. II.

*Copy of a letter from the Director-General of Army Hospitals.*

ARMY MEDICAL DEPARTMENT,

9th October, 1861.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge yours of the 28th ultimo, referring to the premonitory symptoms in cases of cholera.

I have the honour to be, &c.,

(Signed)

W. GIBSON,

*Director General.*

TO DR. MACLOUGHLIN,

34, Bruton Street.

## No. III.

*Copy of a letter to* MAJOR-GENERAL SIR EDWARD LUGARD.

SIR,—As cholera is now raging in the army in India, and as it is committing great ravage in the army, in the interest of that army—in the interest of the public—and in the interest of humanity—permit me to request that you will be pleased to put before the Secretary of State for War the enclosed copy of a correspondence that has passed between the Registrar-General, Major Graham, and myself.

And I have further to request the favour that you will be pleased to call the attention of the Secretary of State for War particularly to Major Graham's letter, by which it will be seen that the researches which I undertook and carried out in 1853 were undertaken and carried out in the presence of the whole medical profession here in London; and that therefore the result of these researches are trustworthy.

I have not been in India: but as the pathology, &c., of cholera has never been scientifically studied in India, I must conclude that the medical profession there knows no more of the pathology of this disease now than they did in 1817.

And I state this advisedly from correspondence I have had with medical gentlemen who were in extensive practice there, and from the conferences I have had with medical officers who have had high medical appointments in India.

In 1854, every effort was made with the then War Office, and with the chief of the army medical department here, to point out the important practical results that might be derived from the above researches to benefit the army in the Crimea; and even a copy of these researches was sent to each of the medical officers in that army. But unfortunately the benefit to be derived from these researches was overlooked and the country had to deplore the loss of many thousand men, up to the loss of the commander-in-chief of that army.

History tells us that an epidemic may sweep away thousands, without those charged with the public weal noticing the desolation, till some important individual in the community is destroyed.

Then the circumstances which preceded his death are recorded, and the disease which destroyed him is carefully studied, and this study becomes useful to those coming after him.

And since it has pleased Providence to take the above commander-in-chief to himself, let those he has left behind study medically the disease which destroyed him; and the knowledge they may derive from that study may be the means of saving millions from an untimely grave.

His case clearly shows how slowly, how insidiously, the disease advances, and that an individual may be passed all human aid before he, or his friends about him, are aware of his danger.

He had a few days previous to his death, a slight diarrhoea which gave him no pain, or his friends about him any uneasiness as to his state of health.

The day before his death his voice had that peculiar sound that at once proclaimed, to any one acquainted with the pathology of this disease, that at that moment he was, in all probability, passed all human aid. Yet at three o'clock p.m. the next day he was not supposed to be in danger: at four p.m., the developed stage of the disease came on—in a few hours after he had ceased to breathe.

He no doubt had the best medical advice in his camp; but, alas! that disease had not been scientifically studied by any one in the camp; and, consequently, their medical treatment was empirical.

I have served, and I have seen the disease, in an army in

the field before the enemy, and I have seen the disease in an army in quarters.

I am aware how difficult it is to deal with the disease in an army before the enemy,—

But I am also aware how easy it is to deal with the disease in an army in quarters.

And I have no hesitation in stating, that such a calamity as has befallen the army in India ought not to have taken place, had the military and medical officers of that army known, and done, their duty.

In the interest of humanity, therefore, it is to be hoped that the Secretary of State for War will point out to the Indian Government, that it is their duty to have the rise and progress of this disease scientifically studied, so as to arrive at a rational method of medical treatment.

The Indian Government can have no greater difficulty to carry out these researches than was found, here, by an individual, assisted by the valuable information derived from the Registrar-General, Major Graham, and the gentlemen of his department.

Since writing the above, *The Lancet*, a medical publication, has been put into my hands. I see by this publication that the Indian Government has appointed a mixed Commission, composed of five persons, to inquire and to report on the late outbreak of cholera in India.

Three of the gentlemen on this Commission are not medical men. They may be well informed on all other subjects; but, as they have not studied medical science, it is impossible they can form—and it is impossible they can presume—to express an opinion on the medical question,—

And, consequently, this Commission must fail to arrive at the knowledge of an abstract medical question; and whatever

their report may be, in a medical point of view, it must be useless ; and I regret to be under the necessity to say,—that this Commission is a cruel imposition on the public.

I have the honour to be, &c.,

(Signed)

DAVID MACLOUGHLIN, M.D.,

*Member of the Legion of Honour*

London, 22nd October, 1864.

NOTE.—In 1863, a copy of the Report, drawn up by the above Commission, was put into my hands ; and, to the credit of that Commission, it must be stated that they declined to enter into an inquiry as to the pathology, &c., of cholera ; and again and again, in their Report—to their credit it must be stated—they deplore that, although cholera is endemic in India, yet no scientific study of the disease has ever taken place in India.

Thus, therefore, leaving the question, as to the pathology, &c., of cholera where it was in 1817.

#### No. IV.

*Copy of a letter from MAJOR-GENERAL CROFTON.*

WAR OFFICE,

9th November, 1861.

SIR,—I am directed by the Secretary of State for War, Sir George Lewis, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th ultimo, recommending that the scientific study of cholera should be urged on the Indian Government.

In reply, I am to inform you, that Sir George Lewis considers that this question may be, properly, left in the hands of the medical authorities in India.

I have the honour to be, &c.,

(Signed)

J. CROFTON,

*Master-General.*

To Dr. MACLOUGHLIN.

*Copy of a letter to the Director-General of Army Hospitals,*  
DR. GIBSON.

SIR,—When I had the advantage of an interview with you on Friday last, to thank you for having allowed me to examine the medical reports from India in your office, I took the liberty to state the impression which this examination had left on my mind :—that the medical officers in India were not acquainted with the pathology, and with the medical treatment, of cholera.

And, I submitted, that as cholera had never been scientifically studied in India, that it would be beneficial to the army, and to the public, to have this disease scientifically studied in India.

If my memory is faithful to me, your reply was — that the medical officers in India were well acquainted with the pathology, and the medical treatment, of cholera; and that, consequently, no scientific study of the disease was required.

And that, so far as the existence of a premonitory diarrhœa in cholera, that was well known in Dublin in 1848, where you were with your regiment; and this, you said, was well known here, in England, and on the Continent of Europe in 1848.

If I were called upon to prove that not one of the medical officers in India—whether in charge of Presidency or in charge of regimental hospitals—were acquainted with the pathology, and medical treatment, of cholera, I would appeal to the testimony of the returns in your office — especially to the medical treatment of this disease: which medical treatment — if it does not assist the disease to destroy life — does not assist Nature to save life.

You are aware that when cholera first attracted attention in 1817, that it was then considered to be an *entity* — *sui generis*; and that anything that weakened the person made

him more liable to be acted on by what was called "*the cholera poison*" — and hence the attention first paid to diarrhœa.

But this diarrhœa was not considered the first—the essential symptom of cholera—up to 1853.

And so far from this diarrhœal stage being known in this country to be the first—the essential—symptom of cholera up to 1848, you will find that the Royal College of Physicians of London by their report on the outbreak of cholera in this country, published in 1854, that they considered diarrhœa and cholera as two distinct diseases.

And the General Board of Health, in their report on the outbreak of cholera in England in 1848-49, also consider diarrhœa and cholera as two distinct diseases.

And, even on the 8th of November, 1853, the General Board of Health asserted, in an official document, inserted in *The Times* newspaper, "that the *worst cases of this formidable disease are those where these symptoms—purging and vomiting—are wholly or partly absent.*"

And if you will turn to the report of the outbreak of cholera in England and Scotland in 1854, published in 1855, you will find that, even then, the General Board of Health entertained the same opinion as in 1850—viz., that diarrhœa and cholera are two distinct diseases.

And if you will please refer to the outbreak of cholera in the fleet in the Black Sea in 1854-5, you will find that up to 1855 the Naval Medical Department also considered diarrhœa and cholera as two distinct diseases.

Therefore, your memory was unfaithful to you, when you stated that it was known in Dublin and in England in 1848—that diarrhœa is the first—the essential—symptom of cholera.

I will not put forward my personal knowledge of what was the opinion of the French pathologist as to the pathology of cholera up to 1848, but permit me to refer you to the official

reports published by the French Government on the outbreak in France in 1831-32, and on the outbreak in 1849—the first report published in 1834, the last published in 1850—and you will find that the pathologist in France also considered diarrhœa and cholera as two distinct diseases.

And, further, permit me to remind you, that the result of my researches were first published in the Registrar-General's Weekly Return of Births and Deaths, 24th September, 1853; and that the same result was the same day communicated to the Imperial Academy of Medicine in France; and that the French Government, acting under the advice of the Academy, sent a distinguished member of the Academy, *Dr. Méliér*, here to see me, and to examine into the result of my researches, and to report.

And so far as Germany is concerned, if you will refer to Mr. Granger's official report of the outbreak of cholera in 1853, you will find that the German pathologists had not the slightest idea of the connection between diarrhœa and cholera — that they also considered diarrhœa and cholera as two distinct diseases.

And, therefore, your memory was again unfaithful to you when you stated that it was well known on the Continent, in 1848, that diarrhœa is the first—the essential symptom of cholera.

As you were with the army in the Crimea when the disease raged in that army, I will not remind you that not one of the medical officers of that army had scientifically studied this disease; that not one was aware that diarrhœa is the first, the essential symptom of cholera, and that consequently their medical treatment was empirical.

You, and every honourable medical officer of that army, must deeply deplore that the above important knowledge was not communicated to the medical officers of that army.

Thousands of lives, and that of the commander-in-chief of that army, might have been saved.

In conclusion, I must regret your decision that no scientific study of the pathology, the etiology, and the medical treatment of cholera SHALL TAKE PLACE IN INDIA.

My object is to perform an act of humanity. You must not be surprised therefore that, by every means in my power, I press the necessity for this scientific study of this disease in India, on the authorities.

I have the honour to be, &c.,

(Signed)

DAVID MACLOUGHLIN, M.D.,

*Member of the Legion of Honour.*

London, 1st May, 1862.

34, Bruton Street, Berkeley Square, W.

## No. VI.

*Copy of a letter from the Director-General of Army Hospitals to DR. MACLOUGHLIN.*

ARMY MEDICAL DEPARTMENT,

13th May, 1862.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1st instant on the subject of the pathology and medical treatment of cholera by the medical officers of Her Majesty's army in India.

I have the honour to be, &c.,

(Signed)

J. GIBSON,

*Director-General.*

To Dr. MACLOUGHLIN.

*Copy of a letter to the Secretary of State for War.*

SIR,—On taking the liberty to call your attention to the subject matter of this letter, allow me to say that I am prompted to do so only, by the desire to be useful to the army and to the public.

But before I go further, please to permit me to state the claims I have to entertain, and to give an opinion, on the subject matter to which I wish to call your attention.

When cholera broke out in India as an epidemic in 1817, the medical profession there, without any scientific inquiry at the bedside, assumed that this was a new disease, *an entity, sui generis*, independent of and a superfetation on diarrhœa, attacking persons in perfect health, suddenly, with vomiting, &c., and destroying life in a few hours; and this opinion was entertained by the medical profession in all countries up to 1853.

Having seen this disease in Canada in 1804 under the name of *miséréré*—having seen it again during the Peninsular war under the name of *diarrhœa*—having seen it in France in 1831-2-3-4, &c., under the name of *Trousse Gallant*, and again in France in 1831-2-3, &c., under the name of cholera, and here in England in 1848-49, '53-54, under the name of cholera—

I had, after careful researches at the bedside, arrived at the conclusion that cholera is not a new disease—that it is not “*an entity, sui generis*,” but that it is invariably preceded by a diarrhœa for a few hours, or for a few days, or for a few weeks, and that if this diarrhœa is scientifically cured, the developed stage is prevented and life is save.

A General Board of Health having been appointed to study the rise and progress of this disease in 1848-49—as this disease had never been scientifically studied in any country—

it was suggested to the Board that this outbreak ought to be taken advantage of to have the disease scientifically studied. But this suggestion was not entertained by the Board.

In 1853, this country being again alarmed by the outbreak of this disease, the same suggestion—to have this disease scientifically studied—was made to the Board, but again without effect.

Having failed with the General Board of Health to have the pathology, &c., of cholera scientifically studied, I determined to carry out the investigation myself—and to carry it out in the presence of the whole medical profession in London.

And, aided by the valuable information afforded by the Registrar-General, Major Graham, and the gentlemen of his department, I was enabled to do so.

And it was during this inquiry that it was first ascertained and pointed out to the medical profession, that a painless diarrhœa may have drained away almost the whole serum from the blood; that the blood may have ceased to circulate; that the heart may have ceased to contract; that the pulse may have ceased to beat; that a person may be at his usual occupation, or walking about for pleasure or for business; that he may head the festive board, the life of his party; that he may be past all human aid; that still he has not been seized with vomiting, &c.; that he has not been seized with that which the medical profession in 1817 named “*cholera*.”

And again, during this inquiry, it was first pointed out to the medical profession, that where cholera is epidemic, there the functions of the intestines of the whole population are disturbed. Thus, one-half, or one-third, or one-fourth of the usual dose of a laxative medicine, now, induces diarrhœa, too often followed by a hopeless cholera.

Therefore, the above was the first scientific inquiry carried out in any country, to ascertain the pathology of

cholera; and it was the first time that the connection between diarrhœa and cholera was demonstrated; and that the importance of this diarrhœal stage was ever made evident to the medical profession, and that the rational medical treatment was ever pointed out to them.

*See The Registrar-General's Weekly Report of Births and Deaths for 1853.*

*See the Medical Gazette and Times for 1853.*

*See the Result of an Inquiry into the Invariable Existence of a Premonitory Diarrhœa in Cholera, by Dr. Mac-loughlin.*

The result of this inquiry having been first published in the Registrar-General's Weekly Report of the 24th of September, 1853, and having been communicated to the Imperial Academy of Medicine of France on the same day, the French Government, acting under the advice of the Academy, sent Dr. Méliér, a distinguished member of the Academy, to see me, to examine and to report on the result of my researches.

Cholera having again broken out in 1854 in this country as an epidemic, the Registrar-General was kind enough to again undertake the same researches as in 1853; and the result of his inquiry in 1854 was the same as in 1853.

*See his Weekly Report of Births, Deaths, &c., for 1854.*

The General Board of Health was also induced to carry out this inquiry; and the result was, that in every hospital, union, &c., in England and Scotland, where trustworthy information could be obtained as to the state of health of the persons — previous to an attack of vomiting, &c.—previous to an attack of cholera — there it was found, that the person had had a diarrhœa for a few hours, or a few days, or a few weeks.

Therefore, these researches, carried out in 1853 and 1854, puts it beyond all doubt, that a diarrhœa for a certain lapse of time precedes an attack of cholera; and that, if the disease is promptly and scientifically cured in this diarrhœal stage,

the developed stage — that of cholera — is prevented, and life is safe.

I have professionally attended the less fortunate members of society when labouring under this disease in hovels. I have professionally attended the most fortunate members of society when labouring under this disease in royal palaces.

I have served and I have seen the disease in the army—in the field before the enemy—in camp—and in quarters—and I know how difficult it is to cure it in an army in the field or in camp. But I am also aware how easy it can be cured when the army is in quarters.

The army in India was last year in comfortable quarters well cared for, and no onerous duties to perform.

Surprised by the reports in the public papers that above one-third of the strength of some regiments was carried off by the disease, I determined to ascertain, if possible, the cause of this appalling mortality.

I again examined the army medical reports from India at the army medical department, and I found that the army medical department had never attempted to study the disease scientifically, or profited by the scientific studies of other pathologists ; that they knew no more of the pathology of the disease than they did in 1817, and that their so-called medical treatment assisted the disease to destroy life.

Therefore, the surprise is not that so many die in the military hospitals, but the surprise is that any recover.

In conclusion,—

As the pathology and the medical treatment of cholera has never been scientifically studied in India,—

As none of the medical officers in India appear to be acquainted with the pathology and the medical treatment of cholera,—

The necessity that a scientific Medical Commission should

be appointed to go to the bedside, and there study the disease, is evident.

I have the honour to be, &c.,

(Signed)

DAVID MACLOUGHLIN, M.D.,

*Member of the Legion of Honour.*

London, 1st May, 1862.

34, Bruton Street, Berkeley Square, W.

## No. VIII.

*Copy of a letter addressed to the Field-Marshal Commanding-in-chief, HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE, &c., &c., &c.*

SIR,—On the 12th of May, 1862, I had the honour to call your Royal Highness's attention to the fact that the pathology, the etiology, and the medical treatment of cholera had never been scientifically studied by the army medical department; and I took the liberty to submit that the army medical department ought to be called on to study this disease scientifically.

On the 27th of May, 1862, Major-General Forster answered my letter of the 12th of May, 1862, by stating "*that it had been ascertained that the medical officers of the army had long been familiar with the pathology and the medical treatment of cholera; and that their attention had been especially directed to the premonitory symptoms of this disease!*"

With sentiments of the profoundest respect, I beg leave to say that I have seen and that I have examined the army medical reports at the army medical department up to 1860,

relative to cholera, and that the Colonial Office sent me the copy of the official dispatch, dated 6th of August, 1862, from the Governor of the Mauritius, inclosing the copy of an official medical report, from the Deputy Inspector-General of army hospitals, relative to the outbreak of cholera in that Island in 1862, and I find from those two sources that the army medical department have never scientifically studied the pathology and the medical treatment of this disease; nor have they profited by the scientific studies of other pathologists and their medical treatment of this disease, nor are they aware what is the premonitory symptom of this disease.

I say, that not only have the Army Medical Department never scientifically studied this disease, but they have not profited by the researches of other pathologists; and at this moment they know no more of the value of the premonitory symptoms, of the pathology, and of the medical treatment than was known in 1817, when this disease first attracted attention in India. And their medical treatment is such that the surprise is, not that 50, 60, 70, or 80 per cent. die in the military hospitals, but the surprise is, that any survive.

Therefore, as your Royal Highness was misinformed in 1862, relative to the knowledge of the pathology, &c., which the Army Medical Department have of this disease; and as cholera has again appeared in various parts of India, and as, in all probability, it will soon break out in the army there, I respectfully beg leave to bring the above facts again under your Royal Highness's attention.

And, further, I beg leave to add, that being the first in any country who—by careful researches, at the bed-side, publicly carried out in London, in 1849, 1853, and 1854—demonstrated the pathology and scientific medical treatment of this disease—I am ready to appear before any scientific Medical Commission your Royal Highness may please to appoint; and by official documents—by the testimony of the Registrar-General,

Major Graham —and by the testimony of trustworthy medical practitioners — point out the premonitory symptoms, the pathology, and the scientific medical treatment of this disease

I have the honour to be, with great respect,

Your Royal Highness's most obedient  
and very humble servant,  
(Signed)

DAVID MACLOUGHLIN, M.D.,  
*Member of the Legion of Honour.*

London, 6th July, 1864,

34, Bruton-street, Berkeley-square, W.

#### NO. IX.

*Copy of a letter from MAJOR-GENERAL FORSTER to  
DR. MACLOUGHLIN.*

HORSE GUARDS,  
4th August, 1864.

SIR, — The Field-Marshal Commander-in-Chief, having caused your letter of the 6th ultimo, relative to the medical treatment of cholera, to be forwarded to the Director-General of the Army Medical Department, I am directed to acquaint you that, by the reply which has been received, it appears that Dr. Gibson has no observations to make thereon. And I am to state that, under the circumstances, His Royal Highness does not deem it expedient to refer your communication to the Secretary of State for War; whom, however, you can address on the subject, should you consider it advisable to do so.

I have the honour to be, &c.,

(Signed)

W. F. FORSTER.

## No. X.

*Copy of a letter to MAJOR-GENERAL SIR E. LUGARD from  
DR. MACLOUGHLIN.*

This letter was (inclosing the copy of the letter of the 6th of July) to the Field-Marshal Commander-in-Chief, and the copy of General Forster's letter of the 4th of August, 1864, and urging on the War Office the necessity to have cholera scientifically studied. Not having received any acknowledgment of that letter, I addressed the letter No. XI. to the War Office.

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## No. XI.

*Copy of a letter to MAJOR-GENERAL SIR EDWARD LUGARD.*

*26th August, 1864.*

SIR,—The War Office are aware that, by the eloquence of facts, I have induced the Admiralty and the War Office to appoint a Medical Commission to study, and to report, on the pathology, the etiology, and the medical treatment of the so-called syphilitic disease—a disease which has never been scientifically studied by a scientific Medical Commission in any country; and which study—if carefully carried out by the Admiralty, by the War Office, and by the Medical Commission—will be a blessing to the army, to the navy, and to the human race.

Consequently, if I were to study my interest, I ought not to enter now into a controversy with the War Office; but I have a higher object in view than self.

And I feel that however distasteful the step I am about to take may be at this moment to the War Office, yet when they

have considered the subject, and satisfied themselves that I am acting for the benefit of the public, I am certain the War Office will be the first to be grateful to me.

Since you have informed me by your note of this day that if I placed on paper what I wished to communicate to the Secretary of State for War, it would be placed before his lordship.

Therefore I will again call the attention of the War Office to the question of cholera, which I have so often, unavailingly, placed before the War Office, in the hope, for the advantage of the public, I may be more fortunate this time.

Having in 1853 publicly demonstrated before the whole medical profession of London the pathology, the etiology, and the medical treatment of cholera, a study which had never been scientifically undertaken by any Government, or by any medical authority, or by any medical practitioner, in any country.

When the army was in the Crimea—as cholera was raging in that army, and as the Army Medical Department had never scientifically studied this disease, or profited by the scientific studies of others—I submitted to the War Office, to the Horse Guards, and to the Army Medical Department the necessity to have this disease scientifically studied by the Army Medical Department.

The receipts of my letters were acknowledged, but nothing was done; and the consequence was, that the commander-in-chief and thousands belonging to the army were hurried out of the world by the disease, assisted by the so-called medical treatment.

Again, in 1861, when cholera broke out amongst the troops in India, the attention of the above three departments was called to the same subject, but the receipts of my letters were again acknowledged. But, again, nothing was done; and the result was, that above 3,000 valuable lives were destroyed by the disease, assisted by the so-called medical treatment.

Again, in 1862, when cholera broke out at the Mauritius, the attention of the above three departments was again called to the same subject, but the receipts of my letters were again, acknowledged. But, again, nothing was done, and some hundreds, if not thousands, of valuable lives were consigned to untimely graves by, I repeat, the disease, assisted by the so-called medical treatment.

As cholera has broken out in various parts of India, and in our possessions in China, and in this country, with every sentiment of respect, I repeat, as the pathology, the etiology and the medical treatment of this disease have never been scientifically studied by the Army Medical Department:— as they are no better acquainted with the pathology, &c., &c., of this disease than they were when this disease first attracted attention in 1817—I submit, I say, that this outbreak ought to be taken advantage of, to have this disease scientifically studied by Medical Commissions, who should be directed to go to the bedside, and there interrogate Nature; and note the first deviation from perfect health till the whole train of symptoms have developed themselves.

That there may be no mistake as to the grounds I have for making the above statements, enclosed are memoranda, of what I am prepared to substantiate, by official documents. if the War Office wish to see, and to appropriate, these documents.

I have the honour to be, &c.,

(Signed)

DAVID MACLOUGHLIN, M.D.,

*Member of the Legion of Honour*

London, 26th August, 1864.

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#### M E M O R A N D A.

1. That I have seen and examined the Army Medical Reports at the Army Medical Department up to 1860, and that

I have in my possession an official copy of the Medical Report relative to the outbreak of cholera at the Mauritius in 1862.

2. That, from these documents, it appears that the Army Medical Department have never scientifically studied the pathology, &c., of this disease, nor have they profited by the scientific studies of other pathologists.
3. That, from the above documents, it is evident that they know no more of the pathology, the etiology, and the medical treatment of this disease than was known in 1817, when this disease first attracted attention.
4. That the so-called medical treatment is *contra* indicated by the pathology of the disease, and assists the disease to destroy life.
5. That as cholera has broken out in several parts of India,... in our possessions in China, and in this country,—
6. Therefore—In the interest of the army and of humanity—this outbreak of cholera ought to be taken advantage of, and scientific Medical Commissions ought to be appointed—in this country, in India, and in China—to study and to report as to the pathology, the etiology, and the medical treatment of this disease.

(Signed)

DAVID MACLOUGHLIN, M.D.,

*Member of the Legion of Honour.*

26th August, 1864.

## NO. XII.

*Copy of a letter from* MAJOR-GENERAL SIR EDWARD LUGARD.

WAR OFFICE,

21st September, 1864.

SIR,—I am directed by the Secretary of State for War to

acknowledge your letter of the 26th ultimo and the 6th instant, upon the subject of cholera.

In reply, I am directed to acquaint you, that no considerable outbreak of this disease has occurred at any of the military stations in India, or, up to the last information, in China; and that no affliction of the nature of real and developed cholera is prevalent in this country.

Under these circumstances, Earl de Grey considers it unnecessary to appoint a Commission for the purpose of investigating the nature of the disease.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed)

EDWARD LUGARD.

To DR. MACLOUGHLIN.

### No. XIII.

*Copy of a letter to MAJOR-GENERAL SIR EDWARD LUGARD.*

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of yours of the 21st instant in reply to mine of the 25th ultimo, stating that, happily, no considerable outbreak of cholera had occurred at any of the military stations in India or in China, and that no affection of the nature of real and developed cholera is prevalent in this country.

I have to thank the War Office for the information, that there has been no considerable outbreak of cholera in the military stations in India or China.

But as to there not being any real and developed cholera prevailing in this country, I am sorry to say the War Office is in error.

So far as my personal experience goes, real and developed cholera prevails at this moment in this country.

On the 9th and 10th of this month I was labouring under the disease, and at one time I did not expect that I could live till the 11th.

Besides, the Registrar-General's Weekly Report of Births, Deaths, &c., is there, which proves that the disease is prevalent in London.

But, with submission, the question at issue is, not whether there is or whether there is not an epidemic of cholera, but whether the Army Medical Department know, at this moment, the pathology and the medical treatment of cholera.

I respectfully beg leave to repeat what I have for these last ten years again and again stated to the War Office, to the Horse Guards, and to the Director-General of army hospitals, that the army medical department have never scientifically studied the pathology and the medical treatment of this disease; that they know no more of either than was known to the profession in 1817, when the disease first attracted attention; and further, that their so-called medical treatment assists the disease to destroy life, and that consequently the surprise is not that 50, 60, 70, or 80 per cent. of cholera cases die in the army hospitals, but the surprise is, that any survive.

I beg leave to add, that it is not during an outbreak of an epidemic, when every one is in danger, that men can be found coolly and clearly to examine and to appreciate facts.

Therefore it is not during an epidemic that a Medical Commission can be expected to give a trustworthy opinion on the prevailing disease.

And, therefore, with every sentiment of respect, I trust the War Office will permit me to press for the appointment of a scientific Medical Commission to study and to report as to

the pathology, the etiology, and the medical treatment of cholera.

I beg leave to add that I am ready to appear before the Royal College of Physicians of London, or before any scientific Medical Commission whom the Secretary of State for War may please to appoint, and substantiate the facts I have stated above.

I have the honour to be, &c.,

(Signed)

DAVD MACLOUGHLIN, M.D.,

*Member of the Legion of Honour.*

London, 22nd September, 1864.

34, Bruton Street, Berkeley Square, W.

#### No. XIV.

*Copy of a letter to Major-General SIR EDWARD LUGARD.*

SIR,—With reference to my letter of the 26th of August and its enclosure, and with reference to our correspondence since on the same subject,—

That there may be no mistake as to what I have done, and as to what I intend to do, to carry out the object I have in view—which is, that the soldier, labouring under cholera, shall receive the best medical aid that medical science can give, to assist his constitution, to save his life, and not to expose him, as he is now, to be hurried out of existence by the disease, assisted by the so-called medical treatment,—I will state shortly the facts of the case, and I will then state what I intend to do.

I repeat that after having seen and examined the army medical reports at the army medical department, and after

having ascertained that the army medical department have never scientifically studied or profited by the scientific studies of other pathologists, as to the pathology, the etiology, and the medical treatment of cholera; that even at this moment they know no more of the pathology of cholera than they knew in 1817, when the disease first attracted attention, and that their so-called medical treatment is empirical, and assists the disease to destroy life.

In the interest of the army, in the interest of the public, and in the interest of humanity, I have again and again, for these last ten years, called the attention of the War Office to the necessity to have the army medical department made acquainted with the pathology, the etiology, and the medical treatment of cholera.

But all my efforts have been useless; and the consequence has been that during these last ten years above ten thousand soldiers have been hurried into untimely graves by the disease, assisted by the so-called medical treatment.

It appears that the War Office have again drifted into the same current they were in 1809 — when, spell-bound, they accepted, as authority on medical questions, advice, by which the military hospitals were made pest and slaughter-houses; and when, warned of their error, they turned a deaf ear to all remonstrances.

But when the public and the House of Commons called for explanations on the subject of the great mortality in the military hospitals, is it not on record at the War Office, that the so-called medical advisers to the War Office in 1809, certified to the War Office that they were totally unacquainted with medical science?

So far as cholera is concerned, sending a soldier, at this moment, afflicted with cholera into a military hospital is sending him to the shambles.

Are the present official medical advisers of the War Office

as well acquainted with medical science as the official medical advisers of the War Office were in 1809?

It is evident that the War Office is labouring under some strange illusion. They have before them the army medical reports, by which they see that the mortality from ~~diarrhoea~~ cholera is at the rate of 50, 60, 70, or 80 per cent.; whereas, amongst the less fortunate members of society it is, according to the Registrar-General, 48 per cent.

The soldier attacked with cholera is in the prime of life; he is selected from the most healthy portion of the population; he is well fed, well clothed, and well cared for.

The less fortunate members of society, attacked with cholera, belongs to all ages, from the infant at the breast to that of extreme old age; as a rule, he belongs to the most unhealthy; belongs to the badly fed, badly clothed, and badly cared for; yet the mortality amongst the less fortunate members of society, attacked with cholera, is less than amongst the stalwart soldiers.

This fact ought to have awakened the War Office to the necessity for inquiring, and preventing them resisting, for ten years, an inquiry, and thereby assisting to destroy above ten thousand men.

It is evident that the War Office is labouring under an error, and that error is fatal to the army. I am satisfied that they will feel grateful for having their error demonstrated to them.

Consequently, with sentiments of the profoundest respect if, in fifteen days from the date of this letter, I am not informed that a Medical Commission, composed of the Royal College of Physicians of London, or a Medical Commission, composed of scientific medical practitioners, is not appointed, before which I shall be called to substantiate what I have stated above relative to the Army Medical Department, I shall feel it a duty to place the correspondence I have had on

this subject with the War Office before the public, and ultimately before the House of Commons.

And then leave it with the House of Commons to decide— if the soldier labouring under cholera shall receive the best medical aid that medical science can give to assist his constitution to save life; or, if he shall receive the best aid that can be given to assist the disease to destroy his life.

I have the honour to be, &c.,

(Signed)

DAVID MACLOUGHLIN, M.D.,

*Member of the Legion of Honour.*

London, 22nd October, 1854,

34, Bruton Street, Berkeley Square, W.

P.S.—The War Office are no doubt aware that, by the last mail from India, the 77th Regiment has been more than decimated by cholera; and that the disease still rages in the regiment; and that the 20th Regiment is also suffering great loss from the disease in China.

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No. XV.

*Copy of a letter, dated 8th November, 1864, from Major-General SIR EDWARD LUGARD.*

SIR,—I am directed by the Secretary of State for War to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22nd ultimo, in which you renew your suggestion that a Commission should be appointed to inquire into the pathology and medical treatment of cholera in the army.

In reply, I am to acquaint you that as an inquiry has already been instituted into this subject in India by the order

of the Government it is not Earl de Grey's intention to assemble a Committee or a Commission in this country as you propose.

I have the honour to be, &c.,

(Signed)

EDWARD LUGARD.

To Dr. MACLOUGHLIN.

### No. XVI.

*Copy of a letter, dated 12th November, 1864, from DR. MACLOUGHLIN to Major-General SIR EDWARD LUGARD.*

SIR,—I beg leave to acknowledge the receipt of yours of the 8th instant, in answer to mine of the 22nd ultimo.

In yours of the 8th instant, it is stated "*that an inquiry has been instituted on this subject (this is the pathology and medical treatment of cholera) by order of the Indian Government, and it is not the Earl de Grey's intention to assemble a Committee or Commission in this country as you propose.*"

With submission, *no Medical Commission, appointed by the Indian Government, has scientifically studied the pathology, the etiology, and the medical treatment of cholera.*

Messrs. James Jameson and William Scott were the first medical practitioners who were appointed to study and to report on the pathology, the etiology, and the medical treatment of this disease.

By their reports they overlooked the first, the most essential stage of this disease, because it is generally painless, and fixed their attention on the last stage, because pain then came

on with vomiting, severe purging, cramps, &c. Then they prescribed a plan of medical treatment which assists the disease to destroy life.

In 1861, a Commission was appointed by the Indian Government to inquire into the rise and progress of the outbreak of cholera in India.

As soon as it was known in this country that this Commission was composed of three gentlemen, non-medical, and two medical practitioners, I took the liberty to address the War Office on the 28th of October, 1861, and I pointed out that it was impossible that such a Commission could form, and that it was impossible they could presume to offer, an opinion on the medical questions.

On the 9th of November, 1861, I received an answer from the War Office to my letter of the 28th of October, 1861, stating that the Secretary of State for War considered that this question (the scientific study of the pathology &c., of cholera) may be properly left to the medical authorities in India.

In 1863, a copy of the report made to the Governor in India by the above Commission fell into my hands.

To the credit of this Commission, their first act was to declare themselves incompetent to enter into the study of the pathology of cholera.

Also to the credit of this Commission, it must be stated that they again and again express their regret that in a country like India, where cholera is endemic, no scientific study of the pathology, &c., of cholera has ever been attempted.

Therefore, the knowledge of the pathology, &c., of cholera in India rests on the authority of Messrs. James Jameson and William Scot; who have overlooked the first, the most important stage of the disease, and by their medical treatment assists the disease to destroy life.

Consequently, the War Office have been misinformed, that a Medical Commission has scientifically studied the pathology, &c., of cholera in India.

The War Office is aware that I have seen and examined the army medical reports at the Army Medical Department, and that I have also in my possession a copy of the official medical report of the outbreak of cholera at the Mauritius in 1862, forwarded to me by the then Secretary of State for the Colonies, the late Duke of Newcastle.

By these reports it is seen that the Army Medical Department have never scientifically studied the pathology, the etiology, and the medical treatment of cholera: that they have, blindly, adopted the opinions of Messrs. James Jameson and William Scott, on the pathology and medical treatment of cholera, as axioms.

Consequently, the surprise is—not that the mortality of the army hospitals is at the rate of 50, 60, 70, or 80 per cent. of cholera cases—but the surprise is, at any recovering.

With submission, I must take the liberty to remind the War Office of what took place in 1809 — when, spell-bound, the War Office accepted as trustworthy medical advice, by which the army hospitals were made pest and slaughter-houses; and when warned of their errors, the War Office turned a deaf ear.

But when the House of Commons desired explanations, as to the great mortality in the army hospitals, is it not on record at the War Office, that their medical advisers declared that they were totally unacquainted with medical science?

At this moment, sending a soldier labouring under cholera into a military hospital is sending him to the shambles.

Are the present official medical advisers to the War Office as well acquainted with medical science as their predecessors were in 1809?

However, having for these last sixty years seen this disease, under four different names, in various parts of the globe; and having had more than common opportunities to study the pathology, the etiology, and the medical treatment of this disease; and having for these last ten years failed to induce the War Office—in the interest of the army, in the interest of the public, and in the interest of humanity—to have this disease scientifically studied by the Army Medical Department; and as the present Secretary of State for War has, by your letter of the 8th instant, finally refused to have any inquiry into the pathology, &c., of cholera.

Therefore, with sentiments of the profoundest respect, I must perform the duty which I have imposed on myself—which is, to place this correspondence which I have had with the War Office before the public, and ultimately before the House of Commons.

Then the House of Commons will decide—if the soldiery afflicted with cholera shall receive the best aid that medical science can give to save his life?—

Or, if the soldier afflicted with cholera shall receive the best aid that can be given to destroy his life?

I have the honour to be, &c.,

(Signed)

DAVID MACLOUGHLIN, M.D.,

*Member of the Legion of Honour.*

London, 12th November, 1864,

34, Bruton Street, Berkeley Square, W.

















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